

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-05 LAB-04

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /039 W

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R 131600Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2189

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THESSALONIKI 0839

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GR

SUBJECT: SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS AT TWO THESSALONIKI
 FACTORIES

1. THESSALONIKI PRESS DECEMBER 12 CARRIED NOTICES
THAT GERMAN "SIEMENS TELE" AND AMERICAN "GOODYEAR"
PLANTS WOULD SUSPEND OPERATIONS FOR TWO WEEKS, DECEMBER 21
TO JANUARY 7, IN FACE OF BUSINESS DECLINE AND MOUNTING
INVENTORIES. ANNOUNCEMENTS STATED THAT UNDER AGREEMENT
WITH ITS PERSONNEL, SIEMENS WOULD PAY ITS 750 WORKERS
USUAL CHRISTMAS BONUSES BUT NOT SALARY DURING WORK
LAYOFF. 300 GOODYEAR WORKERS WILL BE ON HALF PAY
DURING SAME PERIOD.

2. COMMENT: GOODYEAR'S AMERICAN PLANT MANAGER TOLD
CONGEN STORIES REFLECTED SITUATION AT HIS PLANT
WELL, THAT THEIR BUSINESS HAD BEEN SLACK DOMESTICALLY
AND IN THEIR NORMAL EUROPEAN EXPORT MARKETS, THAT NO
NEW CARS HAD BEEN ENTERING GREECE FOR SOME TIME,
THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO PICK-UP SINCE JULY MOBILIZATION,
AND THAT THEY HAD TO REDUCE CURRENT HIGH INVENTORIES.
HE STRESSED THAT TEMPORARY SHUT-DOWN HAD BEEN AGREED UPON
WITH UNION REPRESENTATIVES, AND POINTED TO GOODYEAR'S
COMPARATIVELY BETTER TERMS FOR EMPLOYEES DURING PERIOD
THAN SIEMENS, AS INSURANCE AGAINST RISING RASH OF
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LABOR PROBLEMS LOCALLY, SUCH AS RECENTLY-TERMINATED

ETHYL-HELLAS STRIKE (THESS 830). REP ALSO SPOKE
HOPEFULLY OF EXPECTED UPSWING IN GOODYEAR'S BUSINESS
IN FIRST QUARTER OF '75.
BRENNAN

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